

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/057 W

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R 050815Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9411

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, CB

SUBJECT: CHINA ON CAMBODIAN CHARGES OF U.S. BOMBING

1. AN AUTHORITATIVE PEOPLE'S DAILY "COMMENTATOR" ARTICLE (CARRIED IN FULL BY NCNA) OF MARCH 5 EXPRESSES THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S RESOLUTE SUPPORT FOR THE "SOLEMN POSITION" OF THE GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC CAMBODIA. IT ALSO DENOUNCES THE "AGGRESSIVE ACT BY U.S. IMPERIALISM," AND CONTENTS THAT "THE U.S. AIR ATTACK ON SIEM REAP CITY CONSTITUTES A SERIOUS PROVOCATION TO THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE AND AT THE SAME TIME AN OPEN TRAMPLING OF INTERNATIONAL LAW." THE ARTICLE, HOWEVER, CONTAINS NO OTHER MENTION OF THE U.S. BY NAME AND IS ESSENTIALLY A REPLAY OF CAMBODIAN STATEMENTS ON THE BOMBING AND COMMENTATOR'S PROFESSIONS OF THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND CAMBODIAN PEOPLES. IT MAINTAINS THAT ALL SABOTAGE, TROUBLE-MAKING, PROVOCATIONS AND AGGRESSIONS BY IMPERIALISM AND ALL REACTIONARIES WILL

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FAIL.

2. THE ARTICLE FOLLOWS ONE DAY AFTER AN NCNA REPORT ON THE CAMBODIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IENG SARY-LED TRIP FOR FOREIGN ENVOYS TO VISIT BOMBED AREAS OF SIEM REAP. THAT REPORT ALSO CITED PRC AMBASSADOR SUN HAO AS STATING THAT THE U.S. AIR RAID SHOWED THAT THE ENEMY IS NOT RECONCILED TO HIS DEFEAT AND VOICING SUPPORT FOR THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT'S FEBRUARY 26 STATEMENT.

3. GIVEN NORTH VIET-NAM'S GROWING INFLUENCE, IN LAOS, PEKING UNDOUBTEDLY IS SEEKING TO MAINTAIN ITS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CAMBODIA. ALTHOUGH EVINCING CHINA'S SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY, THE RATHER MILDLY TONED COMMENTATOR ARTICLE COMES SOME NINE DAYS AFTER THE INCIDENT. IT ALSO REFRAINS FROM ANY EXPLICIT EXPRESSION OF PRC SUPPORT FOR THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT OR PRAISE FOR THE CAMBODIAN LEADERS' (AS OPPOSED TO PEOPLE'S) ROLES IN HELPING TO BRING ABOUT THE "REVOLUTIONARY VICTORY." ON BALANCE, THE ARTICLE APPEARS TO BE THE MINIMUM SUPPORT THAT THE PRC COULD PROVIDE TO THE BOMBING CHARGES AND LEAVES THE PRC WELL BEHIND THE OTHER ASIAN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES' REACTIONS.
CROSS

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